GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5567
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
KIT FOR AIDS VIRUS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian scientists have indigenously developed a kit for detecting AIDS virus and HIV;

(b) if so, the names of the Indian pharmaceutical companies and institutes which are going to manufacture this kit commercially;

(c) the price of indigenous kit as well as the foreign kits available in the country; and

(d) the time by which the indigenous kit is likely to be made available in the market?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : Scientists from Cancer Research Institute, Mumbai have developed a kit for the detection of antibodies to AIDS virus and HIV. This is a Western Blot HIV antibody detection kit. This kit can be used to confirm if the blood sample under evaluation is infected with HIV virus.

(b), (c) & (d) : M/s J. Mitra & Company, New Delhi have procured this technology for manufacturing the kit. The price of the indigenously developed kit is expected to be about Rs.650/- per test while the price of one test with an imported kit is about US $ 20 to 24 (Rs.900 to 1200). The indigenously developed kit is going to be marketed shortly.